

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

January 4, 2018

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, December 27, 2017 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2
Simon Conroy, Area 4
Mark Dame, Area 8
Samuel Dyer, Area 3
Robert Hall, Area 10
Pete Keenan, Area 5
Harry McManus, Area 1, Chairperson
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: Christopher Rosenquest, Area 9

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
James Coffey, Esq., County Attorney
Melody Lemieux, Principal Stenographer

Chairperson Harry McManus called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, County Administrator Michael Zurlo conducted roll call. All legislators were present.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2017 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Keenan. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson McManus asked if anyone present wished to address the Legislature.

Joey Trombley of Chazy, New York, addressed the Legislature regarding the possibility of a vacancy in Legislative Area 3. (A copy of a letter is attached and made part of the minutes). Mr. Trombley requested the Legislature consider holding a special election (rather than appointing an individual) to fill the vacancy that may be created upon the successful election of Sam Dyer as Beekmantown Town Supervisor. He asked that the Legislature allow the residents of Area 3 to decide who should represent them.

William Laundry, representing the Clinton County Historical Association, thanked the Legislature for approving funding for the Historical Association in the 2018 County budget and for funding to repair the porch at the Historical Association. Mr. Laundry provided Legislators with a copy of the Historical Association's annual report.

Jim Mann of Chazy, New York also requested a special election be held should a vacancy on the Legislature occur. He asked Legislators to give the residents a chance to participate in making the decision on who will represent them in Area 3.

Bill Arthur of Chazy also requested a special election in case of a vacancy in Area 3. Mr. Arthur stated the Towns of Beekmantown and Chazy have placed sufficient funding in their 2018 budgets to hold a special election.

Cathy Devins, Chazy Town Board member, also requested a special election so the people could decide who should represent them.

Steve LaPier of Chazy stated County representation is very important, and he feels the people should be electing their representative rather than being forced to accept an appointed person.

Mark Henry, Supervisor for the Town of Chazy, stated he has had many conversations with residents of Area 3, and if there is a vacancy, residents are in favor of holding a special election. Residents want someone who will represent them and the concerns of Area 3. Representatives are the most effective if they have the support of their local constituents, and the best way to garner that support is to run for office and earn their vote during an open election. An appointment can be seen as intent to circumvent the will of the people. If a vacancy occurs, a special election should be held as quickly as possible.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, updated the Legislature on the Executive Order by Governor Cuomo regarding prepayment of property taxes and explained how the Executive Order affects local municipalities and taxpayers. Ms. Davis also provided a brief update on the last day to pay 2016 property taxes to avoid foreclosure is January 12, 2018.

There being no one further who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson McManus moved on to Committee reports.

Buildings and Grounds Committee - Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons did not have a report.

Children and Family Services Committee - Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Children and Family Services Committee was polled on Resolution #1041 which has been placed on the agenda.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee - Legislator Rosenquest

Mr. Zurlo reported on behalf of Legislator Rosenquest. He reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee was polled on Resolutions #1042 through #1044 which have been placed on the agenda.

Finance Committee - Legislator Dame

Legislator Dame reported the Finance Committee was polled on Resolutions #1045 and #1046 which have been placed on the agenda.

Health Committee - Legislator Beach

Legislator Beach reported the Health Committee was polled on Resolutions #1047 through #1051 which have been placed on the agenda.

Human Services – Legislator Keenan

Legislator Keenan reported the Human Services Committee was polled on Resolutions #1052 through #1055 which have been placed on the agenda.

Personnel Committee - Legislator Dyer

Legislator Dyer reported the Personnel Committee was polled on Resolution #1056 which has been placed on the agenda.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee - Robert Hall

Legislator Hall reported the Committee met earlier and discussed Resolutions #1057 through #1067 which have been placed on the agenda. The Committee discussed the Driving

Academy Parking Lot and was provided with updates on Airlines and the Upstate Airport Initiatives Project.

Public Safety Committee - Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy reported the Public Safety Committee was polled on Resolution #1068 which has been placed on the agenda.

Transportation Committee - Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons did not have a report.

LIAISON REPORTS

Community Services Board – Simon Conroy

Legislator Conroy reported the next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 23rd at 4:30 p.m.

Discipline Review – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo reported Kim Kinblom, the Personnel Director, will be reaching out to Committee members to seek a date for a meeting.

Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks – Patty Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported Clinton County will be hosting the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks meeting on Thursday, January 25th. Further details will be provided to the Legislature.

Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board – Pete Keenan

Legislator Keenan reported the Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board met Wednesday, December 20, 2017 and discussed the Revolving Loan Fund. Approximately \$500,000 has been loaned out to small businesses.

STAFF REPORTS

Acting County Attorney – Christine Peters, Esq.

Ms. Peters did not have a report.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo reported a small gathering to honor Carmen Santor (the County's first Probation Director who served for over 30 years) was held in the lobby of the Clinton County Probation Department. Assemblyman D. Billy Jones was present and provided the family with a proclamation. There is a plaque honoring Mr. Santor in the lobby of the Probation Department.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted unless otherwise noted:

Resolutions #1039 through #1055 were approved.

Resolution #1056 titled, "Approving Creation of a Temporary, On-Call Election Specialist Position (PCN TBD) – Personnel Department" was moved by Legislator Dyer and seconded by Legislator Dame.

Legislator Dyer stated he had no problem with creating the position; however, with Clinton County's Nepotism Law, he does not feel Commissioner Campbell should be bringing this person (his wife) back into the office. Mrs. Campbell would be reporting directly to her husband, the Commissioner--not the Deputy. Legislator Dyer felt this is a violation of the County's Nepotism Policy.

Legislator Dame disagreed with this premise and stated it's the domain of the Republican Commissioner to select his Deputy and staff; it is not up to the County Personnel Department on who should be hired. Legislator Dame stated that with any position within the County, the Legislature does not decide on the person being hired, it is up to the discretion of the Department Head on who will be hired.

Legislator Beach stated this resolution simply enables the creation of the position, not who will be hired. As such, the intention itself is not a violation of the policy.

Mr. Zurlo stated he would research the Anti-Nepotism Policy. Chairperson McManus stated they were voting on the creation of the position, not on the person to be hired. The Resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-1-1. (Legislator Dyer voted no.)

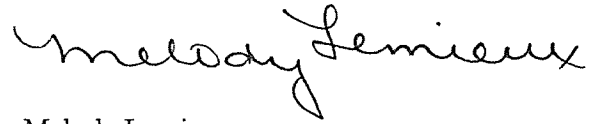
Resolutions #1057 through #1072 were approved.

Legislator Dyer motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolution #1073 was approved.

There being no further business, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Legislator Conroy. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melody Lemieux". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Melody Lemieux
Principal Stenographer

:ML

LETTER OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Clinton County Legislature,

We understand that as of this writing there is the distinct possibility of a vacancy on the Clinton County Legislature specifically for Area 3 which consists of the Towns of Chazy and Beekmantown.

We appear before this legislature to ask you to fill any vacancy that may occur through a Special Election. We believe that the residents of the Towns of Chazy and Beekmantown, who make up Legislative Area 3, should be the ones to determine who their representative should be. The best way to do that is through a Special Election.

The Press Republican stated a few days ago that the legislature was considering holding a Special Election. We were encouraged by that and hope that nothing has occurred since then to dissuade you from this previously stated position. Though to be frank, we now hear that due to political pressures you are now considering an appointment.

Elections are always the first and best choice. Appointments should only be considered in extraordinary circumstances. There are no extraordinary circumstances at play here. An appointment would not be viewed as legislative bi-partisanship. It could only be viewed for exactly what it is- a purely political act to maintain control and an act of hyper-partisanship.

Many important decisions will be made over the upcoming legislative year. Those decisions should be made by a person who has been elected by the people and accountable to the people of Area 3. Not by someone who owes their position to this legislature and is accountable only to them.

Earlier this year, the Legislature and the Board of Elections directed the Towns, to include the cost of any Special Election in our 2018 town tax rates. That has been done and therefore a Special Election would have no impact on the 2018 town tax rates.

While no price can be placed on the importance of democracy and the right to vote, we believe the cost of a special election for both towns to be approximately \$6,000. A very small amount when compared to overall town and county budgets which amount to millions of dollars.

We simply ask, Mr. Chairman, that you and all the members of the Clinton County Legislature protect the right to vote. There should be a Special Election and that election should be scheduled as quickly as possible, for to delay a right is to deny that right.

William Parker

Michael H. Hays

Jack O'Connell

Stephen J. Hays

Cathy A. Devins

Bob

Bob

Mark Henry

Jim T. McNamee

Jim O'Connell
James Hays

Ricky H. Larkin

Samuel West